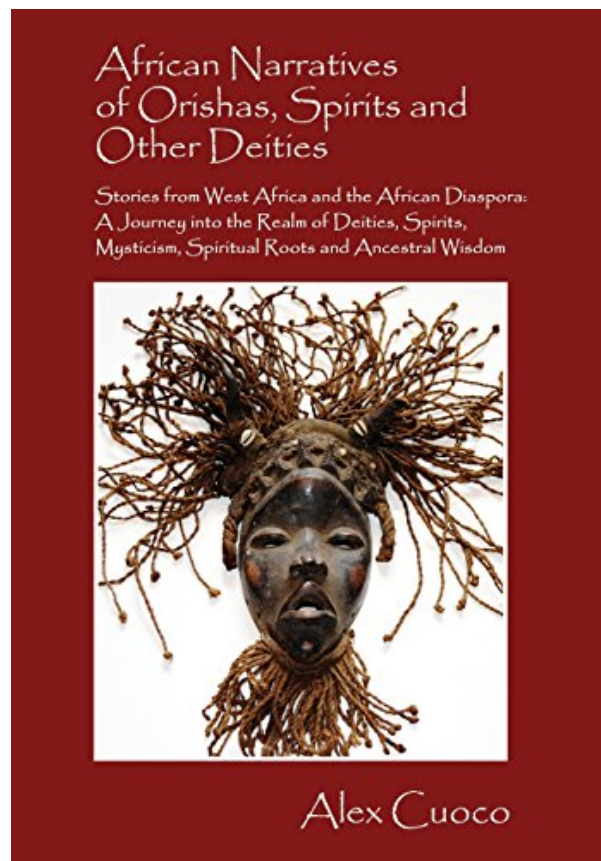


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Stories from West Africa and the African Diaspora:
A Journey into the Realm of Deities, Spirits,
Mysticism, Spiritual Roots and Ancestral Wisdom



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Acknowledging that the Yorùbá are one of the largest and most important groups of people in West Africa, apart from its value as a cultural treasure, African Narratives of Orishas, Spirits and Other Deities will also delight the readers with its wealth of information on Yorùbá/Vodun religious beliefs which are told in a spirited form with humor and poetry. Every page reveals the different deeds and aspects of Yorùbá deities known as Òrìṣà, as well as a number of spirits and other deities. This stunning collection of narratives showcases the diversity of Yorùbá Òrìṣà culture and evokes the power of Àṣẹ. It gives West African deities their much deserved respect and place in world culture. In this collection, Alex Cuoco, specifically kept the text in a non-academic format to afford the reader a free flow of thought without interruptions to check notes. He also chose to use simple language throughout the book to make the texts understandable and valuable to the general reader, as well as, making it a great contribution to the informed. The narratives and all other supporting topics in this work examine Òrìṣà/Vodun beliefs in cultures in Nigeria, Benin, Togo, as well as, the Angola/Congo Nkisi deities, thus creating a cross-cultural foundation for spiritual learning and gaining of wisdom and knowledge. (Contains an extensive glossary).

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Not my idea of good scholarship

By M. Gaffney

This 964-page book has lots of unattributed stories and tidbits but I found it disorganized. Because there's no index and information about different deities is scattered throughout, it doesn't function well as a reference. Moreover, Cuoco seems to be making a questionable attempt to compile a "bible" of West African deities; on page 795 he equates variations in myths with confusion, as if there had once been a single authorized version of the stories. After repeatedly asserting that the supreme deity is male and specifying the gender of deities in most of his stories, Cuoco admits on pages 817-818 that most orishas have no gender. Personally, I'd want to confirm whatever he says with more reliable scholarly sources.

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

This book is a masterpiece reference book for African Orishas and Deities

By Miss Maya

The author has thoroughly researched this difficult topic which covers all aspects of African Cultures, relating to the African Gods, Spirits and various narratives, cross-referencing the various legends. It is a barometer for all African Studies programs. The author has additionally listed valuable sources and bibliographical information on the subject which is well worth the price of this 964 page work.

This is an edition which has been sorely needed for African Studies Doctorate programs and will very likely soon become a required text. In fact, it may ultimately result in being the seminal source for African Studies majors. I highly recommend this book to all those interested in African Cultures and Traditions. It is an interesting and informative read.

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Great Book.

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